

ICT IN TEACHING SPEAKING SKILL

What is "teaching speaking"? For many years, teaching speaking has been undervalued and English language teachers have continued to teach speaking just as a repetition of drills or memorization of dialogues. Today's world requires that the goal of teaching speaking should improve the students' communicative skills, because only that way the students can express themselves. Teaching speaking is to teach our learners to produce the English speech sounds and sound patterns, use word and sentence stress, intonation patterns and the rhythm of the second language, select appropriate words and sentences according to the audience, situation and subject matter, organize thoughts in a meaningful and logical sequence, use language as a means of expressing values and judgments, use the language quickly and confidently with fluency.

Reasons for teaching speaking. Speaking is a crucial part of second language learning and teaching. The mastery of speaking skills in English is a priority for many second language or foreign language learners. Our learners often evaluate their success in language learning on the basis of how much they feel they have improved in their spoken language proficiency.

The roles of students in learning speaking. There are some categories that can be used as the role of learners in developing speaking skills in the classroom: **Imitative** - human tape recorder speech, where, for example, learner practice an intonation contour or try to pinpoint a certain vowel sound. Imitation of this kind is carried out for focusing on some particular element of language form.

Intensive - It goes one step beyond imitative to include any speaking performances that are designed to practice some phonological or grammatical aspects of language.

Responsive - It consists of short replies to teacher-or student-initiated questions or comments. **Transactional (dialogue)** - Transactional language, carried out for the purposes of conveying or exchanging specific information, is an extended form of responsive language. **Interpersonal (dialogue)** - It carried out more the purpose of maintaining social relationships than for the transmission of a fact and

information. These conversations are little trickier for learners because they can involve some or all of the following factors - a casual register, colloquial language, emotionally charged language, slang and sarcasm.

Extensive (monolog) - Here the register is more formal and deliberative. It can be planned or impromptu. Students at intermediate to advanced levels are called on to give extended monologues in the form of oral reports summaries of perhaps short speeches.

Modern technologies in developing speaking skill. Technology gives learners a chance to engage in self-directed actions, opportunities for self-paced interactions, privacy, and a safe environment in which errors get corrected and specific feedback is given. Studies are emerging that show the importance of qualitative feedback in software. When links are provided to locate explanations, additional help, and reference, the value of technology is further augmented. Modern technologies available for teachers of English today are: Communication lab, Video conferencing, Video Library, CALL (Computer Assisted Language Learning), TELL (Technology Enhanced Language Learning), Pod casting, Quick Link Pen, Quicktionary, Programs, Speech Recognition Software, Internet, Blogging

How to use these technologies. **Communication Labs Softwares** are available to develop speaking skills. By incorporating suitable software through computers the students will play it again and again with their own interest and try to improve their speaking skills. The usage of headphones in the lab makes the students to have interest over the subject and induces them to repeat again and again instead of feeling boredom.

Video conferencing is the method in which one person can access to the speeches of other persons in some other parts of the world. It is very helpful for the students to understand what is going in this world and to hear the speech of the top most personalities in a lively manner. The most notable point in video conferencing is that the students can post questions immediately and get their answers at once.

Video is helpful for the students to those who miss some interesting session. In this process, the teaching of the

faculty will be recorded and made available to the students. The students can view the tapes in their leisure hours. The advantage in this method is that students can replay it when there is a necessity.

CALL (Computer Assisted Language Learning) is defined as the search for and study of applications of the Computer in language teaching and learning. The teacher can use the latest technologies, which have the potential to transform the students from passive recipients of information into active participants.

TELL (Technology Enhanced Language Learning) is the use of computer technology including hardware, software and the internet to enhance teaching and learning of languages. It allows the students to get access with all the technologies available for the enhancement of English learning. Students are allowed to use online dictionaries, chat, and to view the various happenings around the world.

Podcasts can be uploaded or downloaded, this audio help the learner familiarize with the target language and teachers can use them as useful audio material that can be used in class for activities like discussions, besides, in the web, there are even particular podcasts that are for ESL learners and these can include pronunciation for particular needs of students. Podcasting is the integration of audio files where we can feed our own materials and play it inside and outside of the classroom. Podcasting allows students to use their tech-based entertainment systems for educational purposes. With it we are able to move away from the traditional face-to-face training without losing the student-to-trainer relationship that is so effective in any learning process. An absent student can download the podcast of recorded lesson and is able to access the missed lectures. They could also access lectures of experts which may not otherwise be available because of geographical distance and other reasons.

Quick Link Pen allows learners to copy and store printed text, Internet links. It helps to transfer the data to computers and enables the reader to get the meaning of the word from a built in dictionary. Accessing this type of machine seems to be a more convenient method. Recent

developments in machine translations presents translation engines like GO Translator and Bablefish.

Quicktionary is a pen-like device. It allows the reader to easily scan the word and get its definition and translation on its own LCD screen. Technology such as Enounce and Sound-Editor enable learners to adjust the speech rate of listening materials to assist their comprehension, and present spectrum of speech waves and visual depictions of mouth and tongue movement to ease the learning and refine pronunciation.

In the college we can create **Educational Satellite** lab, whereby satellite programs of educational value like UGC's country wide classrooms, Anna University programmes and other worldwide programmes are recorded and students are given access to the recording either through big screen or small monitor.

Speech Recognition Software also helps improving the students speaking, this can convert spoken words to machine-readable input. The device recognizes the accuracy of what was read and then provides a positive reinforcement like "You sound great!" or gives the user an opportunity to try again, in this way the learner can figure if he is reading well or not. As the user's skill improves, the technology reads less material so that the learner reads more. This software also evaluates and provides scores of grammar, pronunciation, comprehension and provided with the correct forms, for examples if a student mispronounces a word, the learning tool can immediately spot it and help correct it. This device can be a very useful device for distance learners because they don't have a teacher who corrects their speech and this device can help improving their speaking skills.

Students now use **Internet** in the class to learn English. Online teaching inside the classroom seems to be interesting and makes the students to find out the suitable materials for them. Through Internet we can collect data from various sources for any instruction. To improve speaking, students can use Skype, MSM Messenger, Google talk and other applications where students can connect with friends, other students, teacher and even native speakers. These ways of learning have been observed to improve oral

proficiency in students and make up for the lack of native speakers in the areas where students live and what is more, online conferences also enhance intercultural awareness, motivation and raise the level of interaction.

Blogging can be used for instructing the candidates when the teacher is off campus. The teacher can post his article or the instruction to the students, where the students are allowed to post their comments and queries. The teacher can answer the question through his blog.